

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 17, 2018

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Chairman, Judiciary Committee  
United States Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Minority Member, Judiciary Committee  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

I write to express my strong support for Ryan Holte's nomination to serve on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. I have gotten to know Ryan during the nomination process and have been impressed by his demeanor, credentials, and earnest desire to serve his country. I believe he has the experience and temperament necessary to make an outstanding judge.

Originally created by Congress to hear suits against the government for monetary damages, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims has jurisdiction to hear patent infringement cases against the United States. Ryan's depth of experience in intellectual property and patent law will serve him well as a judge on the Court. Ryan, currently a professor at the University of Akron School of Law in Ohio, has been teaching patent and intellectual property law for the past five years. During his time teaching, he has received several prestigious grants and fellowships to pursue research regarding patents and intellectual property rights. Impressively, Ryan has garnered the unqualified endorsement of all of his University of Akron colleagues for this position.

Before his time in academia, Ryan gained practical experience as a litigation attorney with the Federal Trade Commission and as an associate with Jones Day. From 2009 to 2010, Ryan clerked on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit for Judge Stanley F. Birch, Jr. And ten years ago this year, Ryan clerked for Judge Loren A. Smith on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims—an experience that will surely give him significant insight into the role of a judge on that court.

I am confident that Ryan will make a fine judge on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, and I offer his nomination my unqualified support. If I can offer any further insights into Ryan's nomination, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman  
United States Senator